

pine region and the granite belt, which I have spoken of before as the ancient shore of the Atlantic, there are a number of high ridges in the region of the Huronian slates, some of whose summits attain almost to the dignity of mountains. On one of these ridges is Chapel Hill. The purest air and the freshest water are its certificates of health. At the date of its selection an almost unbroken forest covered the ridge and all the surrounding country. The corner-stone of the first building, now known as the "Old East," was laid with Masonic ceremonies by a large body of that fraternity. General Wm. R. Davie, the Grand Master, one of the most gallant and accomplished men in our early annals, conducted the proceedings. There were present, beside the trustees, many distinguished citizens and a large concourse of people from the surrounding counties. As usual, the chief orator of the day was a Presbyterian clergyman, Rev. Dr. McCorkle. The burden of his discourse—which, judging from the brief extracts that have been preserved, was full of weighty and eloquent matter—was the natural and necessary connection between learning and religion. Its first president was another Presbyterian minister, Rev. David Kerr; and instruction was first begun in 1795.

Its endowment was small. The citizens of Orange county contributed nearly twelve hundred acres of land and a small sum of money. Various citizens contributed \$12,000 in cash; Governor Smith gave twenty thousand acres of land; liberal gentlemen here and there gave books; ladies contributed philosophical apparatus; and all gave something to start the bantling in which they felt such a commendable pride. The Legislature gave \$10,000 in cash, and vested in its trustees the right to escheats, unclaimed moneys in hands of executors, &c., which gifts were increased subsequently by grants of lands to a considerable amount. It moved off feebly. Its first president soon resigned. Its second, Charles W. Harris,